

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01988 190009Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01
/060 W

-----068962 200757Z /17

R 190002Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7090
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER AMCONSULS IN CANADA POUCH

UNCLAS OTTAWA 01988

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, ELAB, CA
SUBJECT: POSTAL SERVICE TO CONTINUE

REF: OTTAWA 1843

1. BILL C-45, LEGISLATION TO BAN A POSTAL STRIKE DURING A FEDERAL ELECTION, WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS THE EVENING OF APRIL 17TH. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE REMAINING PROCEDURAL STAGES (PASSAGE BY THE SENATE AND ROYAL ASSENT) WILL TAKE BUT A FEW DAYS AND ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE CONCILIATION TIME-FRAME THAT WOULD ALLOW THE CANADIAN UNION OF POSTAL WORKERS (CUPW) TO LEGALLY STRIKE.

2. APART FROM THE LEGISLATIVE MANEUVERING OF THE GOVERNMENT TO AVOID A NATIONAL STRIKE BY INSIDE POSTAL WORKERS, A RIPPLE OF CONCERN IN BOTH THE MEDIA AND IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS WAS EXPRESSED OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ILLEGAL WORK STOPPAGE BY SOME LETTER CARRIERS IN TORONTO. (THE LETTER CARRIER UNION'S CONTRACT EXPIRES JUNE 30, 1978, AND SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH THE CUPW.) THE POSTMASTER GENERAL TOLD MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS THAT THE POST
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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 01988 190009Z

OFFICE DEPARTMENT WAS "LOOKING INTO THE MATTER".

3. COMMENT: YET TO BE CONFIRMED, BILL C-45 INCLUDES PROVISIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STUDY GROUP TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF CONVERTING THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT INTO A CROWN CORPORATION. THIS CONCESSION SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO RESTRAIN CUPW'S MEMBERS FROM ANY

MAJOR ILLEGAL STRIKE ACTIVITY. THE INSIDE POSTAL WORKERS, CUPW, HAVE WORKED WITHOUT A NEW CONTRACT SINCE LAST JUNE AND, UP TO NOW, HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE LEGAL PROCEDURES UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE STAFF RELATIONS ACT IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT. THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT CUPW WILL RISK THEIR LEGAL NEGOTIATING POSITION AT THIS TIME. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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